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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Encourages Residents to Go Car-Free on September 21

(COLUMBUS, September 7, 2012) – The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) challenges residents throughout central Ohio to be car free on Friday, September 21 in recognition of Central Ohio Car Free Day. Car Free Day seeks to enlighten central Ohioans on the environmental and money saving benefits of alternative transportation methods such as transit, bicycling, walking, and carpooling.

Central Ohio Car Free Day was inspired by World Car Free Day, an international event held every September that encourages people to give alternative transportation a try. Commuters can try transit by riding a COTA bus, get exercise by walking or bicycling, or carpool with friends and coworkers. RideSolutions, a free service of MORPC that helps commuters form carpools, can assist interested residents in forming car pools for Car Free Day.

“If you’ve been thinking about finding a new way to get around, Central Ohio Car Free Day is your chance to join your community in riding transit, bicycling our Greenways, or carpooling with friends,” said MORPC Air Quality Coordinator Evelyn Ebert. “We are so excited for central Ohioans to discover the environmental and health benefits of alternative transportation and save a little money, too.”

Also on September 21, several organizations, businesses, and community groups will be demonstrating what the area could look like with fewer cars on the road by transforming everyday parking spaces into functional outdoor spaces.

These local “Car Free Spots” are inspired by PARK(ing) Day, a global event originally created by Rebar, San Francisco art and design collective. Photos from last year and a map of all of the Car Free Spots will be posted on www.carfreedaycolumbus.org to encourage people to visit the Car Free Spots by bike, bus or foot during the lunch break.

Organizations interested in hosting their own Car Free Spot can still do so by registering their parking space using the online [Car Free Spot registration form](#) before September 14. Hosting a Car Free Spot is a free, fun way to show community support for Car Free Day and showcase sustainability initiatives within your agency. After registering, just fill your space with your outdoor, visual concept between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Friday, September 21. Contact Evelyn Ebert with questions about Car Free Spots at eebert@morpc.org or 614.233.4168.

MORPC is a voluntary association of over 42 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information, innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the area of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment, and housing.